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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Turkish troops to Iraq's Sunni-Turkmen region - Sabah
PM Erdogan: We must be in Iraq - Hurriyet
PUK: Regardless of nationality, foreign troops in Iraq might
face attack - Turkiye
White House takes over Iraq responsibility from Pentagon -
Hurriyet
Rice holds reins on Iraq - Milliyet
U.S. protecting Israel - Milliyet
Simitis threatens Turkey - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

World denounces Israel, U.S. warns Syria - Zaman
Arab League denounces Israel, urges UN to intervene -
Cumhuriyet
U.S. blocks UNSC resolution denouncing Israel - Yeni Safak
Sharon is pulling the region to war - Cumhuriyet
Turkish troops due in Baghdad by mid-December - Yeni Safak
American snipers will guard Iraqi oil pipelines - Yeni Safak
Bush Administration gives Iraq authority to Rice - Radikal
Rice is Iraq's new boss - Yeni Safak
Putin: U.S. in Iraq looks like USSR in Afghanistan - Zaman
UN peace plan for Cyprus will cost \$28 billion - Radikal

BRIEFING

Turkish peacekeepers to Iraq: The Council of Ministers approved a motion for deploying Turkish troops in Iraq and submitted it to the parliament on Monday. A Turkish troop contingent to be deployed in Iraq will operate under Turkish command, and will not act as a military unit reinforcing the occupation, according to the parliamentary motion. Government Spokesman Cemil Cicek said that besides contributing to Iraqi peacekeeping militarily, Turkey will extend support in various fields from health services to engineering. Cicek said that Turkey, as a NATO member, cannot afford to be excluded from U.S.-led plans to reshape the Middle East. Cicek said he was certain that the request would be approved. Prime Minister Erdogan told his cabinet that Turkey will strengthen its hand in talks with the U.S. if parliament votes to send troops. Dailies quote State Department Spokesman Boucher as welcoming the Government's decision. U.S. Ambassador to Ankara, Eric Edelman, voiced confidence that Turkish troops would provide a significant contribution in Iraq if the parliament opts to deploy troops. Ankara wants to set up five military stations in Northern Iraq to deter possible provocative attacks, papers report. "Radikal" claims that the U.S. is reluctant to meet the expenses of Turkish peacekeepers in Iraq, and has instead offered Turkey a larger share from Iraq's rebuilding. Turkish soldiers will police the region, which stretches northwest of Baghdad to the Syrian border. Sunni Arabs and many Turkmen will be under Turkish protection, "Sabah" reports. "Zaman" writes that Turkey will be allowed to choose between the Kurdish town of Salahaddin and the al-Anbar region. Following the approval of the motion, Turkey and the U.S. will sign an MOU regarding the nature and scope of the peacekeeping operations in Iraq.

Ankara condemns Israeli raids, terrorism: The MFA condemned last week's suicide attack in Haifa, Israel, which claimed

20 lives. The MFA also said the Israeli air raid on a camp near Damascus was unacceptable and constituted a violation of Syrian sovereignty. The MFA expressed concern that the Israeli attack could trigger fresh tensions in the region. Simitis warns Turkey: In a meeting with Prime Minister Erdogan in Rome last week, Greek Prime Minister Simitis said that Athens would not approve the EU's agreement to start accession negotiations with Turkey in late 2004 if there is no breakthrough in the Cyprus and Aegean problems. Dailies report that EU leaders are busy discussing whether to add a 'Cyprus warning' to a declaration to be released at the EU summit meeting in Rome on December 12-13.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Mideast/Iraq
"What the Israeli Government Wants"

Oral Calislar wrote in the social democrat-intellectual Cumhuriyet (10/7): "Following the Iraq war, the Israeli government pressured the US to impose sanctions against Syria and Iran, but to no avail. It seems that the Sharon administration has decided to implement this plan by itself. There was speculation that Sharon played an influential role during the decision-making process in the US administration for the war in Iraq. The Israeli bombing of Syria demonstrates that Israel is an active element in the hawkish policy of the Bush administration. . The situation in Palestine looks like a blood feud, and poses a great threat to the entire Middle East. The mounting tension and increasing violence cast a serious shadow over the future of mankind. Let us bear in mind that the problems of this area served as fertile ground for Al-Qaeda. . Violence has never solved problems, and it never will. The people of Israel should be able to stop the ongoing insanity and force Sharon from office."

"Iraq is not the most important piece"
Hadi Uluengin commented in the mass appeal Hurriyet (10/7): "Regardless of whether or not Turkey deploys troops in Iraq, we should realize the fact that the gist of the Middle East issue does not stem from Iraq. Actually, it never did. The heart of the issue is the ongoing Israel-Palestine dispute, and it will continue to be so. . Normalization of the Middle East region will remain a far-fetched dream as long as the Israel-Palestine dispute remains unresolved. The US is the only power that can effect such a positive change, yet the Bush administration has no will to do so. . Unfortunately, the problem will likely grow even bigger in the days to come. The whole world will once again realize that the essence of the Middle East problem goes through Israel and Palestine, not Baghdad and Kirkuk."

EDELMAN